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Justice (Vol. 1, Iss. 32)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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**Keywords**
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**Comments**
*Justice* was the official publication of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of Justice were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice.*

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ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING OF LOC. 9 AT COOPER UNION

By A. BAROFF
Secretary-Treasurer of the International

On Saturday afternoon, Aug 16, the Clapham Finishes' Union local 9 held a membership mass meeting at Cooper Union. It was the first meeting of clockmakers of its size since the settlement of the last general strike. The meeting was called, according to Brother Halpern, Manager of local 9, with a double purpose: to ascertain the spirit of the rank and file of local 9, to find out what they want in the new week work system and other changes in the industry; and to talk things over about strengthening the local financially, about raising a large fund for emergency purposes.

The mass meeting at Cooper Union was highly satisfactory in both ways.

The spirit of the rank and file was one of unbounded enthusiasm, which was unusual even for a clockmaker meeting. The true meaning and import of the recent revolution in the clock industry, the establishment of the week work system, was evidently felt by the clock finishers, who cheered lustily every reference to the new system.

The meeting was presided over by Brother J. Halpern, manager of local 9, who greeted with much applause.

The principal speakers were: Ab. Baroff, secretary and treasurer of the International, I. Fineberg, chairman of the Joint Board of the Clockmakers' Union and the socialist ex-congressman Myer London.

To say that the speakers were received with enthusiasm, with cheers and much applause would be saying very little. There was an emanation of love, brotherhood, joy and gratitude that flowed from the packed hall to the speakers' platform. It was a most inspiring and inspiring testimony to the leaders and devoted friends of the movement.

The tide of enthusiasm reached its height when ex-congressman London rose to address the clock workers. The audience, to a man, stood up, shouting and clapping, and what with shouts and waving hats and kerchiefs, and applause, it was a volcano of joy and ecstasy.

Those who witnessed this and other scenes at the meeting of local 9 will no longer doubt as to the spirit prevailing among the rank and file. The audience gave an unmistakable demonstration of its appreciation of the recent victory and of the way the new week work system is working out.

The clock finishers also gave their approval to the suggested raising of larger funds for and by local 9. There is little doubt that the concrete recommendations of the Executive Board in this matter were received in a spirit of readiness and confidence by the membership of the local.

The officials of local 9 have good cause to be proud of the results achieved.

Now that our organization campaigns have proved successful all along the line I consider it in order to review the recent events in our unions, events so trenchant with the spirit of struggle and triumph.

The beginning of the year 1919 was also the beginning of an intense feverish activity in the locales of our International. Every week took up its new demands and 44 hour week and better wages for its members.

I propose that in most of the locals the old agreements with the manufacturers expired at the same time as the new agreements had to be concluded. This, of course, served as occasion for new demands to be presented to the various associations. The individual locals drew up their new demands and submitted them to the International for endorsement.

Our general office was busy. Meetings of the various committees of the locals were called to discuss their demands and put them in final shape for presentation to the manufacturers' bodies.

This work demanded an arrangement of conferences between the unions and the manufacturers of several local and international trades. Six strenuous weeks were spent in efforts to gain for all the workers the right to resort to strikes. But these efforts proved futile in most cases, and was received by the workers more apparent that the tramp card, the general strike, would have to be played in order to compel the employers to yield.

It fell to the lot of the Ladies' Waist and Dress Makers' Union local 55, one of the largest locals of the International, to step forth as the vanguard of our forces, and open the struggle for the 44-hour week. This union, with a glorious record of victories, of bravery, of loyalty and devotion to the cause of labor, was forced to call a general strike in order to make the manufacturers change their faces and recognize the power of the organization and to reckon with its demands.

The general strike of the Waist Makers' Union was called on Jan. 21 and lasted some 12 weeks. The workers fought like lions against their employers. The International, its official, its financial resources were placed in the service of the heroic combatants.

This strike conducted virtually by the International office was a model of endurance and loyalty on the part of the strikers, and could not help exercising a desiring influence upon the sister trades, in which the manufacturers were preparing to fight their workers tooth and nail. The strike of the Waistmakers' Union which was conducted with so much system and efficiency and which drove many manufacturers to their ruin, impressed the manufacturers of other trades with the fear of fighting their organized workers. These manufacturers benefited by the strike of the dress and dress employers and came to realize that the best and shortest thing for them was to engage into conferences with the union and concede the demands of the particularly those of the affected trades. The strike of the Waistmakers' Union was a victory for the workers, the employers, the International, and it renewed the agreement with the manufacturers, with American goods, wrapper and Kimono and embroidery industries, securing for all workers a 44-hour week, a reasonable increase in wages, minimum scales, and union standards of work.

The workers' strike was nearly settled! The workers gained a greater victory than originally hoped for, and their success had its effect also on the Philadelphia ladies' local, where local 15, without a strike, gained the 44 hour week and higher wages.

This campaign of our International and its locals in the above-mentioned industries was but the forerunner of a wide organization campaign in other industries, which are under the jurisdiction of the International. Both in New York and in the provincial towns the activities of the International locals reached their high-water mark. The 44 hour week was at the top of the list of demands presented by our locals to the manufacturers. Increases in wages and general improvement in conditions were demanded by all our locals. The non-union workers and the large majority of the affected industries hastened to the banners of the respective unions, which were to fight decisive battles for all the workers of their trade.

The membership meetings and the reports of the respective labor boards were calibers of activity inspired by the vision of victory and a better life. It encouraged the weak locals by rendering them even a greater measure of support than that given the stronger ones.

The realization that the Intern
NEW YORK WITHOUT "L" AND SUBWAY SERVICE FOR 48 HOURS

It has not been the good fortune of Manhattan and the Bronx to have a stony street with the envied peace, happiness and contentment among the subway and elevated workers. Steam and smoke had never been absent, and the recent strike of the subway employees had its echoes in the demands of higher wages and shorter hours. But, thanks to the intervention of the city council and the mayor, the strike was broken and the workers are back at work.

In the meantime, the New Yorkers who have been loyal patrons of the elevated lines have been left without a means of transportation, and they have been forced to use thesubway for their daily travel. The traffic in the subway has been increased, and the fares have been raised to meet the increased cost of operation.

The elevated lines have been closed for a period of two months, during which time the workers have been on strike. The city council and the mayor have been working hard to break the strike and get the workers back at work. The workers have been demanding higher wages and shorter hours, and the city council and the mayor have been trying to meet their demands.

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Labor Items

BIG OIL PRODUCERS

URGING MEXICAN WAR

The board of foreign missions of the Presbyterian church has petitioned the President, urging him to recognize that oil interests are manufacturing propaganda to embroil this nation in a war with Mexico. The report was prepared by Samuel Hazard, of New York, and a Latin-American committee of this church.

Mr. Inman declares that the American people are being deceived by the oil companies and that "intervention in Mexico is coming as fast as certain interests can possibly force it." These interests, he states, "are playing upon the psychology of the people and that the armistice was signed thousands of miners have been idle.

"There are approximately the same number of men employed in the coal mines now as there were in 1918. In some sections, due to idleness, Italians and other aliens were sent back to their native land, but this has been offset by the return of thousands of men who served in the army and navy last war."

WARNED AGAINST UNION BAITING

"Keep hands off trade unions" is the essence of a recent order to their agents in Texas by the general manager of the army by Brigadier General Pierce, acting chief of the labor bureau. The order was given to the agents in charge of workers and declares that "it must be clearly understood and generally known that any abridgment of the right of men to join societies, associations or unions of any kind, and no limitation upon concessions between representatives of those bodies and the proper ordinance representatives.

LABOR SCARCITY

In commenting on conditions in the coal industry the Coal Trade Protective Association reports that prices are growing more "scarce," and that aliens are leaving the mines and the work is being filled by men who were not otherwise employed.

There were wise men who said that the war would not last longer than six months, and that all the nations would understand its futility and would make it impossible for them to continue the war. But this has not been the case. The war has continued for years, and success has continued to elude the efforts of the nations.

The interest alone on the national debts is ten billion dollars per year. In addition to the cost of the war, this country is devoting an enormous sum to the purchase of goods that will never be used. The cost of the war is incalculable, and it is impossible to estimate its effects on the future of the nation.

In addition to the actual money spent, there is the loss of productive capacity which has been destroyed. The destruction of the war areas probably covers a figure as high as the cost of the war itself. The war has caused a great reduction in the labor force, which has been reduced by a million men.

The war has also led to the destruction of property and the loss of human life. The destruction of property has been enormous, and the loss of human life has been great. The death toll has been high, and the suffering of those left behind has been great.

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TO THE RESCUE OF OUR LIBERTIES

It is hardly necessary to adduce evidence to prove that the forces of reaction in our country are gathering strength, and that their power to stifle and suppress every manifestation of genuine education; every effort to the end that the war which took such a fearful toll in human lives and property should not have been fought in vain; that the world be told that there is no dictatorship of the proletariat, no genuine democracy, for real peace and for genuine progressive development of all forces of progress.

The forces of reaction view such efforts as a menace to civilization, and to stifle the awakening of the masses brought about by the events of the last 5 years, no choice of means is made; no methods are considered objectionable that can be used for the purpose.

These victories are due primarily to the wonderful spectacle of solidarity both of thought and action within the organization itself. But they are due also in small measure to the fact that labor the world over is perverted with the urge to a sense of human dignity and of the dignity of the ones who hold this urge.

It is not that urge that our organization of forces of reaction are waging war; all our victories are due, or even, if we may say it, lived if reaction will succeed in its.

Shortsighted workers, who see nothill beyond their immediate material interests are indifferent to this is a reflection of reaction. It is therefore no use to have primarily of the issue; they cannot be blamed for not wishing to participate in.

We want to point out above all else that the opposite policy— that of voiceless nonparticipation, that of a passive acceptance of the loss of its good name of a bona fide trade union. If the efforts made by the workers who constitute the membership of our International are fully aware of the significance of the present moment of the current sweep of reaction. They can rally forces to disastrous consequences. The fact that the forces of darkness and oppression. And for them to remain idle spectators would be traitor to themselves and their class.

We say therefore, that now when the International is through with its own struggles, having accomplished the unique in history, having for the time being stabilized its own affairs, it would be quite useless for the union to posture if it is a kind of con

The reports of our locals to first evidence of their interest in this question. It has never before risen to the surface, and for the reason that it has not been discussed.

This indifference must not be. We appeal to the International and to every member of the International individually to do their duty. The $1,000,000 fund must be raised, and as A. Baroff, the secretary of the Inter

To do this no unusual degree of courage is required. Given the good will and the fund can be raised in no time. Our members will, we know that the aware of the existence of such an organized is nothing greater than the public, and that open them, therefore, put the brakes on its fury.

And even if it is to be a direct request: why not welcome it? Why stand idly by when hund

The policy of cowardice is a disgraceful one, both in the long run it leads to impotence and death. An organization with a few members, and all the organizations of its caliber must have the courage of their convictions and not remain silent when they are required to protest it.

It may be doubted that such a campaign on the part of the International may gain for it the reputation of being bolshevist and revolutionary. But it is a larger fact, the loss of its good name of a bona fide trade union. If the efforts made by the workers who constitute the membership of our International are fully aware of the significance of the present moment of the current sweep of reaction. They can rally forces to disastrous consequences. The fact that the forces of darkness and oppression. And for them to remain idle spectators would be traitor to themselves and their class.

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At THE UNITY HOUSE

We again visited the Unity House. This time only an occasional visitor to the Unity resort is the only place in the world of summer resorts where one does not feel the dreariness and oppressiveness of the "rarity" and "class" that is the daily fare of the highbrow. There the sunshine of gayety and comradeship in a large measure makes up for the lack of sure-enough sunshine.

The social side of the Unity House little need be said about it. It is admitted by all the visitors that there is nothing left to wish for on this score. But its intellectual side is sufficiently neglected. A library has been established at the cost of several hundred dollars and consisting of hundreds of volumes donated by the Unity House and of the best current periodicals.

Too much praise cannot be given the dancing class and its director—big pardon, directoress, as she more than sufficiently forgot to inquire about. From our own observation we can assure the readers that it is simply impossible not to make progress under her guidance. She is the ideal mentor of this artistic woman.

The entertainments arranged every evening contribute much to the amusement and interest of the vacationists. Only local talent makes part in them, but they are none the less interesting and entertaining for it.

The happy Unity vacation is such a place that those who know how bored and uncomfortable guests are in the regulation resorts, how heavily time hangs on their hands, and how unbearable is the "climate" of the weather are. Luckily indeed are those whose fortune it is to spend their summer vacation in the Unity House.

Saturday, August 23, 1919
The American Federation of Labor
ITS SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY AND ITS POLICIES AS REFLECTED AT ITS LAST CONVENTION.

By S. YANOFSKY

The social philosophy of the A. F. of L., as manifested by its policies, is radically different from the usual view of the inevitability of the complete breakdown of the social order. It rejects the premise that the two great classes of society, the capitalist class and the laboring class, are irreconcilable and that the destruction of the capitalist system is inevitable. The A. F. of L. believes that the labor movement is capable of achieving its objectives through the democratic process and that the fulfillment of that process is the responsibility of the trade unions and the labor movement.

The A. F. of L. also holds that the labor movement should work to improve the economic and social conditions of workers and their families, and that it should strive to create a society in which workers have a say in the decisions that affect their lives. The A. F. of L. believes in the right of workers to participate in the democratic process and that workers should have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

The A. F. of L. is also committed to the idea of mutual protection and benefit, and it believes that workers should work together to achieve their common goals.

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Emigration from England

London, England. — A desire to migrate to England after the end of World War I and the move to the federal government's headquarters in Washington, D.C., was expressed by a special committee of the General Federation of Trades Unions, according to a recent report.

It was estimated that the trade unionists that migrated to Britain in the first quarter of 1922 would total 4,000 workers in the English-speaking world. The committee reported that the trade unionists that migrated to Britain in the first quarter of 1922 would total 4,000 workers in the English-speaking world.

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Even unemployed labor possesses potentialities and to assist its transference to alien countries would be unwise.

In answer to the claim that soldiers would not return to indoor life, the trade union committee said:

"We fail the war lasted only 12 months this assumption might have been realized. Four and one-half years' direct association with the mud and suffering of war would have made a generation more critical of the idea of outdoor life. All the surviving clerks who left the General Federation of Trades Unions to come to America to return.

"Most men now manifest great anxiety to settle down at home."
EXECUTIVE OF LOCAL 25 ACTS ON VITAL MATTERS

A regular meeting of the Executive Committee of Local 25 was held on August 12, 1919, at Bethesda, with sister Mollie Fried- man presiding.

Upon the request of the committee which appeared before the Executive Committee of Friends of Russian Soviet Russia, a resolution was adopted to call upon Congress to pass a resolution to take action in the present Russian situation which shall bring about the dismantling of the blockade against the Russian Soviet Republic. The resolution is as follows:

Resolved that the Ladies' Waist and Dressmakers' Union, composed of 30,000 members affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, as citizens of the United States, call upon the Congress of the United States to take action in the present Russian situation which shall bring about the dismantling of the blockade against the Russian Soviet Republic. Without our having declared our stand on the question of the blockade, it is bringing death by starvation to hundreds of thousands of people.

2. We urge the immediate recall of all American troops in Russia, as the quickest way to attempt to secure special services for service there. That is our advice for the soldiers of a democracy.

3. We do earnestly protest against the conniving and collaborating of our government with communist revolutionary groups such as those of Kehlak and Dukin in the sphere of disordered organizations.

4. We hold that the American government must do nothing that will lead us to be recognized by those who have recognized their own form of government in accordance with their own economic and political ideals.

In sum, we call upon Congress to adopt the following functions for the purpose of creating a genuinely democratic federation of the states, which shall bear the memory of the revolution by which it was founded and which it had glorified, by which it was perverted.

As to the question of a continuation of the blockade, we ask in order to assist them in their campaign same was referred to the Finance Committee for action.

Brother Finkelstein, our new Chief Clerk, introduced and in brief he outlined the plans for the future work of his department. He concluded his speech with the statement that he feels the pressure of the work and will try to devote the energy of the welfare of the members in order to improve the conditions of the workers in our industry.

Eugene Finkelstein in suggestion, a permanent Grievance Committee to meet with the representatives of the members every week, and take up grievances which could not be adjusted by the company, and if not elected was elected. This committee consists of Brothers Rosenberg, Schoen, Finkelstein and Sister Mollie Finkelstein.

The Finance and Relief Committee, which was taken up and action upon the report of the Board of Directors, reorganization, for the period of two years, is to be decided to approve of the action of this body in reference to the

shops of J. & S. Elmhurth, Mitchell & Vater, J. & J. L. Koster and White. The question of establishing a new minimum for dressers in the referred to by the Conference Committee was also discussed. The dressers representing the three departments were instructed to work in the interest of bringing their recommendations in to the Board.

The next meeting was authorized to call a special meeting of the Board as soon as the managers and members of the Conference Committee were ready with their plan. It was also decided that as soon as the Brooklyn representatives return from their vacation, he should arrange for conferences with the Association.

A special meeting of the Board was held on Friday, August 15th. The receiving board and Conference Committee reported that they held a meeting on August 15th, by the members of the Conference, they stated that the committee was considering the possibility of a strike for a higher scale. After discussing the matter at some length, the opinion was reached that the strike had a general increase not more than four months ago and considering the present conditions in the industry, it would be advisable to ask for a re-adjustment of the minimum wage scales. The minimum wage of scales which they exist in our industry at the present time. The range was made up by the Conference Committee which would be the minimum wage of scales, and it would be advisable to ask for a re-adjustment of all the minimum wage scales.

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5. The applicant shall be required to make a payment of $3 upon receipt of certificate and shall be required to join the Union.

6. No employer shall have any right of contract with apprentices unless he has notified the Union forty-eight hours prior to the time the apprentice is to be employed. If the Union is unable to supply a fully trained worker, the employer shall have the option of contracting with any apprentice according to the provisions of clause 3.

7. The report was unanimously adopted. The Managers were instructed to make a business card to prepare lists of dates of the different shops of the various work departments. The Union was also asked to make arrangements for conferences with the Association.

THE WEEK'S NEWS IN CUTTERS UNION LOCAL 10

By SAM. B. SHENKER

PREPARATION FOR BAN. QVET COMPLETED

Only five more weeks before the Victory Banquet and tickets will be mailed to all members. The ticket and sales of resolutions the affair promises to be the biggest the Union has staged yet. The usual meeting every night and all the Business Agents have been given tickets to be sold to the membership. Last week's issue of this paper carried a list of inaptitudes by the agents of the American National. It would not be proper to shun to shun-shun the Union's Banquet will surpass all these, since past affairs held by the Union have been tremendous successes.

Members should bear in mind the fact that they can attend the banquet and be taken up. And for this reason they are urged to secure their tickets at least two weeks in advance of the date. Those of the men who postpone their affairs until the last day will find that they can not secure tickets. The dinner will be held at Schenck's Hotel, 46th Street, between Lex­ington and Third Avenue, on Saturday night, September 5th.

TAKE-UP AGAINST REDUCTION OF WAGES

A very important meeting of the Executive Board took place last Monday, August 19th, at which a no less weighty question than safeguarding the present scales of wages was taken up. Every other case for that matter, was laid aside in order that this and other equally important matters might be disposed.

As is commonly known, there are few shops now that are paying only the minimum scale of wages. In fact, some of the Ladies' Garment industries and the heavy cost of living, which, however, are constantly increasing, are threatening to reduce the minimum scale of wages. In some workshops there are also no longer than three ironers are employed. In factories where five or more ironers are employed, not more than two apprentices are permitted.

That such apprentices shall start to work at the rate of $1 per week, the same period of apprenticeship as established for dressers shall ap­pear.

That a Registration Bureau for apprentices is necessary; therefore it was suggested that no apprentices, in either branch, shall be engaged by the Employers unless they are supplied with a certificate of registration issued to the applicant by the Ladies' Waist & Dressmakers' Union Local No. 28.

At the expiration of two days notice the apprentice shall automatically pass into the class of fully-fledged workers. The Union is also asked to make arrangements for conferences with the Association.

IN THE DRASS AND WAIST BRANCH

A conference with the Drass Company, which the Executive Committee had decided to hold, was held the last week of August. A conference took place with the representatives of Locals 10 and 25, representing the Ladies' Garment industries and the high cost of living, which, however, are constantly increasing, are threatening to reduce the minimum scale of wages. In some workshops there are also no longer than three ironers are employed. In factories where five or more ironers are employed, not more than two apprentices are permitted.

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IN THE CLOAK AND SUIT BRANCH

With the return of Secretary Roosevelt to Washington, the official reports of the full staff of the Cloak and Suit Branch are at work. Manager Crooks states that in the last few weeks the office will be busy with recording the conditions encountered in the various plants.

He, in sending out shop meeting notices for every evening in the week, has found that a complete record of each house will be secured and where stand and conditions found to have been neglected will be taken for proper adjustment. The business agents are continuing their control of independent shops. In this connection it is important to bear in mind that no house is to have man having in his possession his dues book and working card. In this wise the agent can determine the man's standing and it will save the member the necessity of being called before the Executive Board.

The much sought and much craved system of equal relief has been established following the settlement of the recent general strike and all the steps have been completed for the proper enforcement of this system. Cutters are in receipt of the notice from the office of any lockup in their shops after which steps will be taken so that a lockup list will be kept of all lockups in such shops. In the event the opportunity of earning a few weeks wages is lost, there is little fear of that just now when the trade is quite busy.

IN THE MISCELLANEOUS BRANCH

A conference was recently held with members of the Children's Dress Manufacturers' Association and the Union. The entire meeting was taken up with matters pertaining to Local 50, thus making it the most important function of the month for the last one hundred and twenty-four hours. It was taken up with matters pertaining to the settlement of the strike and the new contract for the raising of the minimum to $6.50 per week. However, this matter will be taken up with the new contract for the raising of the minimum to $6.50 per week. However, this matter will probably be considered at the next meeting.

The request was made that some of the member representatives be present to inform the officers of some of the conditions in their shops. The changes in the staff of offices in this Branch prevent the members from being taken up as yet. At the last meeting of the Miscellaneous Branch the appointment of James S. Cohen, as the representative of Local 50, was received with enthusiasm by the members. Cohen has been active in the union work and has shown a strong desire to help the members.

THE DRY SEASON

Yeast—Well, there's one consolation now that July 1st is past. It's just the same as usual.

W. E. BRYAN

Incentive

What is the future perspective of the worker who has journeyed beyond the summit of life? He shoulders to think of what there is in his life that makes him and he is no longer physically able to earn a living. He has lived a struggling existence, impossible to accumulate sufficient to provide his needs in his declining years. He sees want and suffering awaiting him, but he does not have the health and energy to support himself.

The incentive gives the worker the hope of a better life. It is designed to help the worker to meet the demands of life and to provide him with a sense of security.

The incentive is not a substitute for work, but it is a supplement to work. It is designed to help the worker to meet the demands of life and to provide him with a sense of security.

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UNITY HOUSE CLOSES 15TH OF SEPTEMBER.

ONLY LOCAL 25 MEMBERS ACCEPTED FOR LABOR DAY, SUBJECT TO ROOM.

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